DOCUMENT RESUME

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TITLE An Integrated Community Approach to Truancy. Promising Programs Profile.

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NOTE 6p.; Paper presented at the "Safe Schools, Safe Students: A Collaborative Approach to Achieving Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free Schools Conducive to Learning" Conference (Washington, DC, October 28-29, 1994). Contains some broken and smudged type.

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IDENTIFIERS Roanoke City Schools VA

ABSTRACT

This program outlines the combined efforts of schools, social service agencies, community agencies, and the juvenile court system to reduce days lost by truancy. Also presented are the services necessary to support long-range remediation of truancy and related risk factors. The program was initiated at an inner-city public school with approximately 450 sixth through eighth-grade students ranging in age from 11 to 16 years old. The target population was students with absences of 20 or more days--25 percent of the total student body. Some of the services provided to these students included assessment, referral to community resources, service planning, case work and group work, court liaison activities, and transportation. Other details highlighted for this plan are the type of staff used--such as, guidance coordinator, school nurse, and Masters of Social Work Interns--and the percentage Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) devoted to the program; program costs; problems encountered--such as limited resources of community agencies--and solutions; program accomplishments; evaluation data; publications describing/evaluating the Program; and other relevant information. Results show that the program was one-third fully effective, one-third partially effective, and one-third minimally effective. The school recorded a significant decrease in absentee rate in the fall when compared to the previous fall. (RJM)

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ED 387 712

PROMISING PROGRAMS PROFILE

1. Program Title, School, Address, Phone, Fax, and Contact Person(s), Title(s) of Contact Person(s)

An Integrated Community Approach to Truancy

Stonewall Jackson Middle School
1022 Ninth Street, S.E.
Roanoke, Virginia 24013
Telephone - (703) 981-2881
Fax - (703) 224-3131

Charles E. Kennedy, II
Principal

Sandra F. Wrobel
Guidance Coordinator

2. Program Overview

This program features an integration of the efforts of schools, social service agencies, community agencies and the juvenile court system to address truancy. An effective program requires broad interventions. In an effort to provide improved and timely services for truant youths and their families, we have implemented a more focused team approach for intervention.

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3. Program Purpose

To reduce days lost by truancy and provide services necessary to support long range remediation of truancy and related risk factors.

4. Implementation Period

July 1994 - June 1995

5. Characteristics of Program Site

An inner-city public school with approximately 450 sixth, seventh and eighth grade students ranging in age from eleven to sixteen years old. 64% of students receive free lunch, 25% of students are enrolled in special education classes, and 75% of students are reading below grade level. In a class of 150 students, 91 have changed schools at least once and some have transferred schools as many as 12 times. The median family income ranges from $13,000 to $27,000. The value placed on education by the community is very low with 49.9% of those over the age of 25 having not obtained a high school diploma. Only 3% of the total population have obtained an undergraduate degree from college.

6. Target Population and Number of Students Served

Students who have absences of twenty or more days. 25% of the total student body or approximately 100 students are served by this program.

7. Services Provided

The intervention model developed by this project, through the coordination of community-based professionals and school-based pupil services professionals is able to provide:

(1) assessment

(2) referral to benefit programs and other community resources

(3) service planning

(4) case work and group work

(5) intensive intervention services

(6) provision of emergency needs

(7) home based services (homemaker) including home management

(8) court liaison activities

(9) referral to health screening and treatment

(10) transportation.

8. Type of Staff Available and Percentage FTE Devoted to Program

School Principal - 10%

School Guidance Coordinator - 20%

School Visiting Teacher - 50%

School Nurse - 5%

School Psychologist - 5%

Masters of Social Work Interns (MSWs) (2) - 60%

Director of Case Management, Prevention Services Unit, Dept. of Social Services - 10%

Juvenile Court Judge - 3%

9. Cost of Program and Funding Source(s)

Funding is provided by reallocation of current resources.

10. Problems Encountered and Solutions

Limited resources of community agencies. Through a willingness to collaborate, a significant number of problems have been overcome.

11. Program Accomplishments/Reported Outcomes

As with any intervention, the effectiveness with the cases we have experienced has been 1/3 fully effective, 1/3 partially effective and 1/3 minimally effective. However,

there has been a significant decrease in absentee rate for the fall of 1994 compared with the fall of 1993.

12. Evaluation Data

Complete evaluation data will be available in the spring of 1995.

13. Publications Describing/Evaluating Program

Summary Evaluation Assessment, July 1995

14. Additional Relevant Information

Efforts continue to accumulate and compile relevant research regarding our approaches to address truancy. Efforts are under way to compile a current annotated bibliography regarding truancy.